

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Tennessee
COUNTY:
Blount
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
DEC 23 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

Louisville Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY:

Second

CODE

009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Louisville

STATE:

Tennessee

CODE

47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Blount County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

Court House

CITY OR TOWN:

Maryville

STATE:

Tennessee

CODE

47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

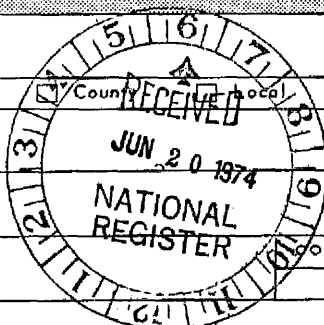
☐ Federal☐ State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site *		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE *Some buildings were moved when Fort Loudoun Dam was built.

During the nineteenth century Louisville grew to become one of the most important ports on the south bank of the Tennessee River (formerly Holston River). It served as a commercial center from which produce and products were exported and to which goods from as far away as New Orleans were imported. Steamship lines regularly came to the port until the advent of the railroad which vastly undermined the importance of Louisville. The railroad which came in 1900 put an end to the pronounced growth of the later 1800's, but it also succeeded in maintaining a segment of 19th century America not often found in the East Tennessee area.

The inundation of Fort Loudoun Lake in the early 1940's caused over half the community to relocate. Two peninsulas of land were left which form the nominated district (see the adjoining map with numbered structures). The present land is almost entirely residential. Over 90 percent of the homes date from the 19th century. Other structures besides housing units are the Masonic Lodge (1847), the Harpers Brothers Store (circa 1880) and the post office (a recently constructed structure). The peninsulas and the structures lend themselves to such an "old timey" feeling that the motion picture The Fool Killer was filmed there in 1963.

The wharves and warehouses along what was River Street have been lost to Fort Loudoun Lake. The remaining properties have been well kept and restored. As Victorian architecture became popular, many of the early structures, such as the Heartsill and Saffell Homes, underwent additions or refinement which altered their Federal lines and now lend themselves to an overall Victorian appearance. The Masonic Hall is the only building which retains its Federal style.

A couple of structures were moved in the early 1940's to higher ground. These bay windowed, turn-of-the-century homes are representative additions to the district. One of the most interesting structures in Louisville is the Harper Brothers Store. Its doors were closed in 1938 but it was not completely left vacant. Many remnants of the past (high buttoned shoes, various antique furnishings and receipts of steamship lines) made the store museum-like.

A few structures have been converted to dwelling units from other uses. These include the post office, which dates from the early 19th century and was later used as the Odd Fellows Lodge. The small home which was once a tavern on the road which came through Louisville, was also used as servant quarters in conjunction with the adjoining Saffell home.

The Heartsill Home, also known as Goddard's Landing, is one of the oldest homes in the district. It was built in 1825 by Abrams Heartsill, who was a carpenter and served as mayor of Louisville in its early days of incorporation; a few of his pieces of furniture remain within the home. Goddard's Landing was the home of William Williston Heartsill who wrote of his Civil War experiences in Fourteen Hundred and Ninety One Days in the Confederate

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. Description

There are thirty buildings in the Louisville Historic District, over half of which possess architectural significance. The only intrusions are a boat manufacturing plant and a few new houses that have recently been built. The district still presents a peaceful 19th century setting. Only two or three of the existing buildings in the district have been moved because of the flooding by the TVA project. Approximately half of the original town was flooded, with the present Louisville Historic District being the higher elevations of two peninsulas that were formed by the lake at the southwestern end of the former town.

The district includes the area of the two peninsulas formed by the lake with the exception of the northeastern half of the upper peninsula which is vacant land owned by TVA. The western boundary would be a line west of the main road leading to the upper peninsula; the northern boundary would be the shoreline of the upper peninsula; the eastern boundary would be the northeastern shoreline of the lower peninsula to a point across the northern end of the upper peninsula south of the vacant TVA land, and the southern boundary would be a line just north of the railroad. The enclosed map indicates these boundaries.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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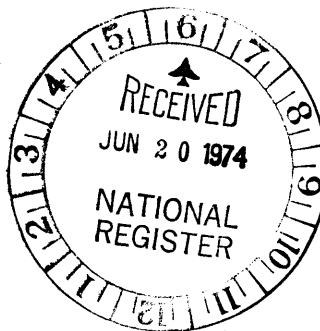
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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Army. Down the same street is the Wilkinson house which was built around 1820. This was the home of B. F. Wilkinson, local iron forger. It is a Federal styled structure, but the present owners have added wings at either end which vastly alter the original appearance. Across the street from the Wilkerson home is the Methodist parsonage. Like the Myers home, it was moved to higher ground when Fort Loudoun was to be inundated. Both of these late 19th century Victorian residences compliment their surroundings. Louisville was quite highly developed in the late 1800's and few vacant lots remained. After the creation of the lake, the property became desirable because of their shore front locations. Since the 1940's most homes have been renovated and restored. On a few vacant lots a few modern homes have been constructed, but the overall appearance is one of the 19th century--ranging from early Federal architecture to late Victorian styling.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After various treaties with the Cherokees in the later 18th century, including the Treaty of Dumpling Creek and the Treaty of Holston, Blount County was opened to settlement. The Louisville area was largely farmland; it was first known as Gillespie's Landing because James and Robert Gillespie shipped their iron from there down the Tennessee.

The growth of Louisville (its name was possibly derived from Louis Philippe of France who visited the Blount County area in 1797) was set by the River. In 1828 the "Atlas" steamed up the Tennessee. Although there were only a couple of homes in Louisville in 1830, the site became one of the most important ports on the south bank of the River. By 1851 streets had been laid out and the citizens received a charter of incorporation from the County Court at Maryville. Products from western Carolina and East Tennessee were shipped at Louisville. The long overland route from Baltimore gave way to river traffic; and instead goods were imported from New Orleans. Among the establishments were tanneries, blacksmith shops, wagon and copper shops, flour mills, lumber mills, distilleries, shoemaking shops, warehouses and produce stores. This era was Louisville's heyday. A number of the buildings which form this district were standing in 1850. The Samuel Saffell House, although later enlarged, was built in 1834; he operated a warehouse and mill. The Masonic Lodge, which was constructed in 1847, and first served as the community school for a few years, is still used by the Masons today. The Kennedy home was built around 1850; the Kennedy's owned a number of warehouses in Louisville, operated mills elsewhere in the county and the impetus behind much of the exporting business.

The Civil War was but the beginning of Louisville's downfall. Sympathies concerning the conflict were widely divided and Louisville's young men went in various directions. The aforementioned William Heartsill sent notes home about his experiences in the war, and as he writes in his autobiography, he returned to Louisville to visit his father while separated from his unit. The town was occupied at various times during the war. Union General O. O. Howard's division spread miles across the Blount County countryside with their lines terminating with the River at Louisville. General Wheeler's cavalry and General Sherman's army camped near the bank. The worst depredations during the war were the result of bushwhackers and renegades. Following the war, Carpetbag rule ignored the inherent rights of many long-time Louisville residents and caused bitter feelings. Problems associated with Reconstruction were further exacerbated by heavy

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burns, Inez. The History of Blount County, Tennessee (Nashville, 1957).
Selected clippings, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville.

Love, A. H. (Updated by Willie Mae French and Elizabeth Prather),
"A History of Louisville, Blount County, Tennessee." Unpublished
manuscript. Maryville Public Library.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	35°	49'	21"	84°	03'	16"		
NE	35°	49'	32"	84°	03'	05"		
SE	35°	49'	25"	84°	02'	38"		
SW	35°	49'	14"	84°	03'	14"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 62

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO
UTM
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Carberry, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District DATE: 2-10-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Laurence C. Henry
Executive Director
Title Tennessee Historical Commission

Date June 12, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/23/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-20-74

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8. Significance

The area of musical significance was incorrectly marked, instead of military. The area was significant in the military area because of the Civil War activity described in the nomination.

The area has literature-related significance because of the Heartsill Home, also known as Goddard's Landing, which was the home of William Williston Heartsill who described his experiences during the Civil War in Fourteen Hundred and Ninety One Days in the Confederate Army, one of the most complete and accurate personal accounts to come from the Civil War. The book is scarce and much in demand.



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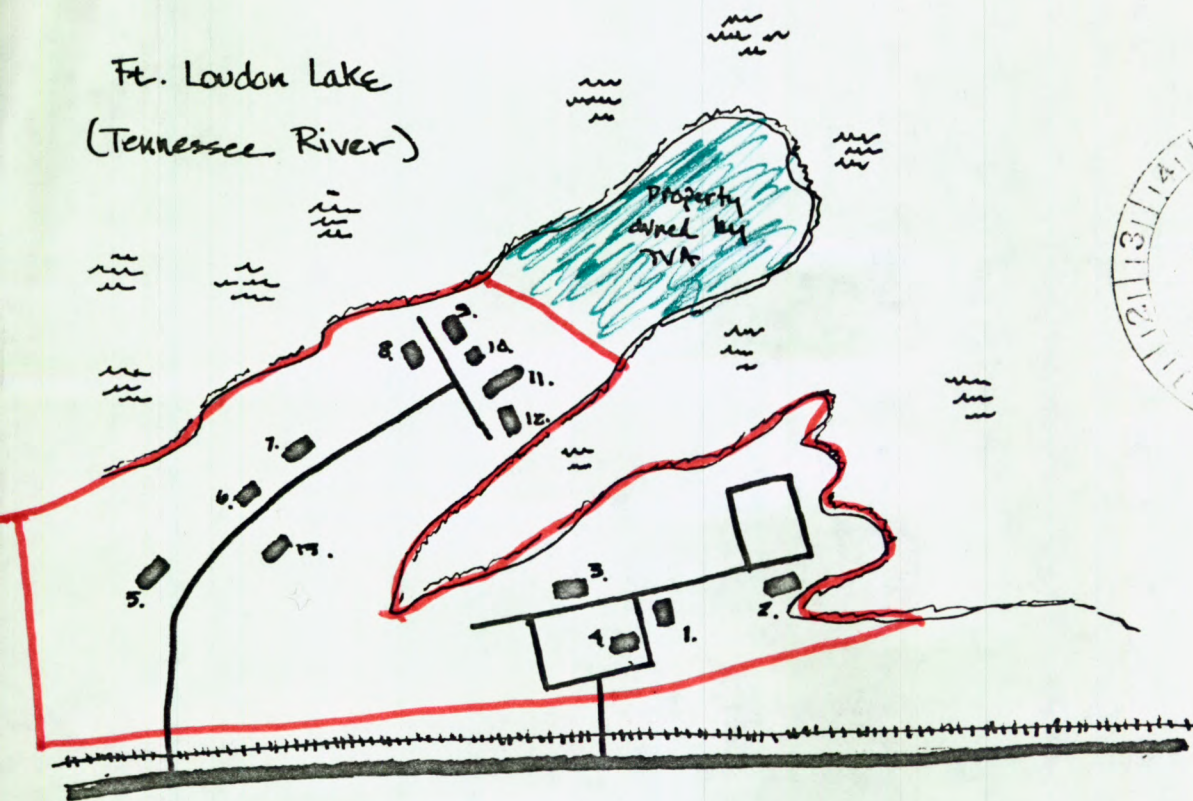
8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

floods which occurred in 1867 and 1875. Much of the warehousing and river front property was lost as the water peaked at over 40 feet on both occasions. After 1875 Louisville began to experience new economic growth. The steamship business was revived as Louisville became a major port by linking itself to various railroad centers in East Tennessee such as Knoxville and Lenoir City. (It is interesting that Harper Brothers Store still has scattered receipts from various steamship lines for importing and exporting at Louisville.) Marble was frequently exported during the later 19th century by A. H. Love and S. H. Wilkinson. The ultimate decline of the commerce of Louisville came with the creation of the L & N Line through the town. No longer was river shipping necessary or as profitable. The town reverted to an agricultural community during the early 20th century as it was one hundred years previously. Marble quarrying continued until the 1920's. The final chapter of Louisville is marked by the development of Fort Loudoun Lake by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Many old-time residents sold their property and moved out of Louisville. The two peninsulas of Louisville which stretch into the lake have become attractive residential property sites with many aspects of the river days very much alive.

Louisville's importance as an early river port and the many buildings exhibiting various styles of architecture make it a unique community in East Tennessee.



Ft. Loudon Lake
(Tennessee River)



1. Masonic Lodge
2. Heartsill House
3. Goddard House
4. Methodist Parsonage
5. Williston Cox House
6. Tavern / servant quarters
7. Saffell House
8. Kennedy House
9. Willingham House
10. Post office / Old Fellows Lodge
11. Harper Bros. Store
12. Harper House

LOUISVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

properties listed are those to be
nominated together to the Dept. of
Interior's National Register of
Historic Places

— = District boundaries

— = Vacant land owned by TVA